

Proclaiming Jesus through Catholic Renewal and Evangelization

February 2018



A letter **∙** from Ralph Martin



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Evangelization of a Nation Page 4

> Mission to Ukraine & Poland Page 6

> > On the Road Page 8

Dear Faithful Friends,

Can you believe it? Lent is almost here! I must admit, for most of my life I've had mixed feelings about Lent—understanding it was "good for me," but not really looking forward to the selfdenial. This Lent is a little different, because the Lord has been helping me with self-denial.

66 SOME THINGS

THAT HAVE

A BAD GRIP

ON PEOPLE

ARE ONLY

RELEASED BY

PRAYER

AND

It started a few years ago when I realized I wasn't really responding to all of Mary's requests at Medjugorje. We aren't required to adhere to private revelation, but in this case, they really are only the requests of the Gospel and Church Tradition. I was good on prayer, the Eucharist, and daily Bible reading, and reasonable on confession, but fasting was hard. I'm not a good "faster," but several years ago, I realized

there was no reason for me not to fast—apart from the weakness of my flesh—no medical reasons, health concerns, etc. So I started trying to fast two days a week. For me, fasting on bread and water was too distracting—I was eating way too much bread! And thinking about it too much! So, except for a morning cup of coffee, I only consume water, from after dinner one day until dinner the next day. There have been some weeks in which I've only

been able to fast one day a week because of travel circumstances, etc., but most weeks I have been able to fast two days a week. My spiritual director at the seminary, who is an expert on the early Church, told me that all the early Christians fasted two days a week, somewhat similarly to what I do. So what may seem special to us today was actually fairly standard for those in the early Church.

Another factor motivating me to take up fasting again—I had attempted it with varying degrees of success in the past—was my sense that some people I was praying for needed more than my prayer; they needed fasting as well. As Jesus said in Mark 9:29,

some things that have a bad grip on people are only released by prayer and fasting. I must say, while I had been praying for some people for years, I saw very visible results after adding fasting to my prayers for them. I don't know exactly what it is, maybe the Lord wants to see that we have "some skin in the game," or are willing to pay a little price—virtually nothing compared to the price He was willing to pay-to join our

fasting and self-denial to His for the salvation of souls. When I'm fasting, there seems to be a little more depth to my crying out to God for others. Consider giving it a try this Lent!

conditions or other needs may not be able to fast from food and drink, but everybody has something they can renounce to add some intensity to their prayer, whether it be entertainment, social media, desert, some non-essential comfort, etc.

I know people with medical FASTING. 99 I must also say that my resolve to continue

this pattern has been greatly strengthened

by my recent "encounter" with the depth of the message of Our Lady of Fatima and the profound response of the three children. (See the November 2017 newsletter for more on this.) And I am not skipping the daily rosary as I once did; if I do miss a day, I make it up the next day by saying two. I want to do my part in responding to Mary's call to pray the rosary daily for peace for the world, the conversion of sinners, and reparation for sin and offenses against the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

continued on page 2



Annual Renewal Ministries' GATHERING

(Is 60:1)

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"Darkness is covering the earth, but the Lord has given us the baptism in the Holy Spirit for precisely this time. This is not a time to grow timid, discouraged, fearful, passive, or confused. We must join our Lord and our Lady in rising up and going forth in confidence in the light and glory of the Lord!"

-Peter Herbeck

TALKS BY
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and Sr. Ann Shields

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RenewalMinistries.net/gatherimg
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kkittle@renewalministries.net

66 You can't outdo God in generosity. >>

Continued from page 1

The three traditional disciplines of Lent are:

PRAYER, FASTING, &

ALMSGIVING.

I try to increase my prayer as much as I can during Lent by adding extra prayer times or visits to the Blessed Sacrament. We talk about prayer a lot at Renewal Ministries, and I know my book *The Fulfillment of All Desire: A Guidebook for the Journey to God Based on the Wisdom of the Saints* has helped many thousands to deepen their prayer life, as have many of Sr. Ann's books and CDs.

Recently, though, I gained an insight into almsgiving that has been pretty inspiring. It began with encountering one of the Mass readings that mentions almsgiving.

"But as to what is within, give alms, and behold, everything will be clean for you." (Lk 11:41)

Jesus said this to the Pharisees. Sometimes it is translated somewhat differently, but our Renewal Ministries' consultant, Dr. Mary Healy, a member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission and a colleague at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, says this about it:

"I think Jesus here is referring to literal almsgiving, not an analogy. In the context of the previous verses, the Lord seems to be saying that almsgiving has to come from a heart full of generosity and kindness (as opposed to the extortion and wickedness of the Pharisees)."

I feel that I'm getting a new insight into how these three "disciplines" that the Church focuses on in a special way during Lent, but which are good practices as a regular part of our life, move us out of a tendency to organize our lives around comfort and convenience. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving require a regular pattern of self-denial, turning to the Lord, and trusting in Him that is really important for "keeping our edge" and remaining alert to the Lord and eager for His kingdom. Anne and I are experiencing a new joy, a new eagerness, and a new freedom in almsgiving and are indeed finding "you can't outdo God in generosity."

So let's continue, in the midst of the normal pain that self-denial brings, picking up our cross with joy this Lent in increased prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, so that sinners may be converted, mercy may be granted to the world, and reparation may be made for sin—both our sin and the sins of others who may not be aware of their need to do penance.

It's good to be in this together. (And Easter is really only around the corner!)

Your companion on the journey,

Rolph Martin

Ralph

Please Pray...

- For a stillness in our hearts that enables us to hear the Lord and respond to His voice.
- For those in difficult situations with no apparent solution, may God give them the grace to keep their eyes on Him and confidently say, "Jesus, I trust in You."
- For the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.



26TH ANNUALLIFT JESUS HIGHER RALLY

FREONTHE EARTH SATURDAY • MARCH 3, 2018 9:00AM - 5:30PM

I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! LUKE 12:49



MASS WITH Cardinal Collins



♦ GUEST SPEAKERPatti Mansfield



Peter Herbeck & Pete Burak





POWERFUL TALKS
from the Renewal Ministries' team
Ralph Martin & Sr. Ann Shields, SGL





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In the midst of these challenging times for the Church and the world, the Lord is doing great things. My wife, Debbie, and I experienced this while on mission for the first time in Brazil in early October. For years, some of our team members and friends who had been to Brazil on mission—including Ralph, Sr. Ann, Dr. Mary Healy, and Patti Mansfield—had told me about the amazing work of the Holy Spirit in that country.

WHAT WE SAW IS ONE OF THE MOST VIBRANT AND ENGAGED CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES IN THE WORLD TODAY.

Every place we went, we encountered large numbers of people of all ages, men and women, who were passionate about their faith and visibly hungry for God. Their faith is characterized by contagious joy, tangible love for Jesus as Lord, and is expressed through a

rare blend of four distinct elements that seem to shape the life of the Catholic Church in Brazil:

- **DEEPLY MARIAN**
- **EUCHARISTIC**
- **CHARISMATIC**
- **EVANGELISTIC**

It was refreshing to see how powerful these four elements can be for the life of the Church when they are united together, rather than separated into factions, as they tend to be here in North America. The unique contribution of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal is particularly encouraging. Instead of being relegated to the margins of the Church and considered a strange niche spirituality, it has been welcomed by a large percentage of the bishops and clergy. In fact, some of the most dynamic, visible, and high-impact priests in the country are Charismatic. For example,

Fr. Reginaldo Manzotti, the founder of Associacao Evangelizar e Preciso, one of four national Catholic television stations in Brazil, recently led a day-long evangelistic event in Fortaleza-Ceara, a beachfront city in northwest Brazil, with more than one million people in attendance! The day was a celebration dedicated to the devotion of the "Holy Wounds of Our Lord Jesus Christ." Fr. Manzotti sent me a brief video of the event, which included Eucharistic Adoration, Holy Mass, prayer for conversion, healing and deliverance, and lots of joyful singing and dancing.

» MESSAGE THROUGH MEDIA

I was invited by *Evangelizar Television* to be a guest on one of their weekly prime-time evening live shows, which included an in-studio audience of over one thousand people. They asked me to give a forty-minute talk on healing, then to pray for healing for individuals in the audience and for those who were watching the program on television.

The program ended with thirty minutes of Eucharistic Adoration led by Fr. João Luiz Lemos, another dynamic young priest. (Shown below with Peter Herbeck •)



The next morning, when Debbie and I came back to the studio to be guests on a morning talk show, the producer from the show I'd been on night before said their numbers showed that just over six million people had watched the program! They get those kind of numbers each week for some of their prime-time shows—numbers that compare favorably to Brazil's most-watched shows on secular cable and satellite television. That's amazing!

» HOW DID IT HAPPEN?

Fr. Edward Dougherty is a seventy-sevenyear-old Jesuit priest from Louisiana who has been a missionary in Brazil since 1966. Fr. Ed's name came up in many conversations while we spoke to leaders, both clergy and laity, as we traveled around the country. I was so struck by the Charismatic Renewal's maturity, high impact, and healthy integration in the life of the Church, that I couldn't help but ask local leaders how that happened. One person after another told me much of the work began with Fr. Ed.

Midway through our mission, Debbie and I were able to spend an evening with Fr. Ed and his team at the television station he founded in the early 1980s. He told us how things began for him. To our great surprise, he said that the key turning point for his life as a priest and for his mission work began in 1969, when he attended a small Catholic Charismatic leaders conference in Williamston, Michigan. At that conference, Ralph Martin and one other brother prayed over Fr. Ed for the baptism in the Holy Spirit. He said that prayer totally changed his life!

He returned to Brazil with a new fire in his heart and a vision to bring the grace of the baptism in the Spirit to the entire country. He spent the next decade or so traveling nearly nonstop throughout the country, establishing prayer groups and leadership events that became the seedbed for what I believe is now the largest, best led, and most thoroughly integrated and impactful Catholic Charismatic Renewal anywhere in the world. The fruit of his work is astounding. And the fruit of that one simple prayer in 1969 continues to grow. Amazing!

As we made our way through the airport in Sao Paulo for our return to Ann Arbor, Michigan, we saw Fr. Ed at another gate, waiting for a flight he was about to board for the US. We stopped to greet him and to say goodbye. I told Fr. Ed I couldn't stop thinking about his story and the amazing fruitfulness of his life. He looked at me with a big smile and said, "Yes, Peter, but we're just beginning. There is so much more work the Lord has in store for us!" I pray that if the Lord sees fit to keep me alive into my eighties, I can live with the kind of enduring vision and zeal for spreading the Gospel that I saw in Fr. Ed.

» A GIFT TO OUR TEAM

Finally, I give thanks for the witness of the brother who invited us to Brazil. His name is Celso Deretti. Celso is a dynamic Catholic lay evangelist and author who left a successful career in journalism to work full-time in ministry some years ago. He not only organized our entire mission, but he translated for us day and night, including all the talks we gave! He's a joyful, humble, and gifted servant of the Lord. I've invited Celso to join our team at Renewal Ministries and to become a country coordinator for our future work in Brazil and other Portuguese-speaking countries. Let's keep Celso, Fr. Ed, and all of our brothers and sisters in Brazil our prayers. 4





We at Renewal Ministries regularly receive letters of gratitude for the work accomplished through YOUR support and prayers. Here is just one of those letters. Thank you, and God bless you!

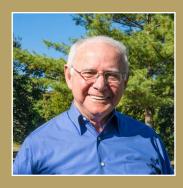
Dear Ralph,

Greetings within the "stillness" of the heart of Jesus! This notecard (which says, "Be still and know that I am God") is complements of the prophecy and remarks you made at Rome. Thank you for being the Lord's mouthpiece, and printing it in September's newsletter. My wife and I have been pondering this word and will continue to do so as He allows. With so much vying for attention in ministry, as well as other life demands, the prophecy calls us, awakens us, and brings our hearts "to attention." Holy Spirit, give us courage to listen . . . for this is LOVE. Amen!

66 To believe in Jesus today, to follow Jesus as Peter, Thomas and the first apostles and witnesses did, demands of us, just as it did in the past, that we take a stand for him, almost to the point at times of a new martyrdom, the martyrdom of those who, today as yesterday, are called to go against the tide in order to follow the Divine Master, to follow the Lamb wherever he goes. 99 (Rev 14:4)



St. John Paul II



By Don Turbitt
COUNTRY COORDINATOR
for UKRAINE & POLAND

Don has been a Catholic lay leader for over forty-five years. He has coordinated the People of God's Love Prayer Group; led parish missions and conferences throughout the US, Europe, Africa, and Vietnam; and continues his work overseas as Renewal Ministries' country coordinator in Poland, Ukraine, Slovenia, Belarus, Ireland, and Latvia.

Don and his wife Pat live in Glocester, Rhode Island, and have three children, thirteen grandchildren, and one greatgrandson.



Fr. Blazej Susko, OFM Cap, is the head of all the Franciscan Capuchins in the Ukraine and a friend to Country Coordinator Don Turbitt.



Spreading the GOSPEL in Ukraine Poland

This mission began in Kiev, Ukraine, at a Franciscan church where my wife, Pat, and I have ministered for several years.
• Fr. Blazej Susko, OFM Cap, is the head of all the Franciscan Capuchins in the Ukraine and has become a friend over the years.

A community group meets in this church and is building a solid group of committed Catholics. I ministered to them with a weekend retreat. Thirty men received teachings on Friday and all day Saturday. On Sunday, I taught and prayed with approximately 200 men and women.

On Monday, I was in Stawyszcze, at Fr. Marek Rudz's church. I say "church," but it's actually his house, with a large room for Mass. Fr. Marek pastors two churches, with a total congregation of about fifty people. He told me he was so fulfilled working with these people, rather than in a big parish in Poland. We had Mass, a teaching, and I prayed with all of the people.

Next, we drove to Zytomer, where I visited a Benedictine monastery. I met with these particular sisters last year, and they were eager for my return visit. Last year, I gave them a spontaneous teaching that pleased them and actually surprised me.

Consequently, I was eager to return and share another teaching with them. The monastery has a morning Mass open to the public. At the end of Mass, the priest was going to leave the monstrance out for exposition. When the priest opened the tabernacle, a young man ran up, grabbed the host, and wouldn't let it go. It took some time for his mother and sister to get the host away from him, and the rest of us prayed aloud for him. I used the situation to show how some Catholics don't believe in the real presence of God in the Eucharist, yet Satan obviously does believe in the true presence. It was a great opportunity for a teaching moment. I prayed over each of the sisters and then returned to the parish.



Don Turbitt ministered to Fr. Marek Rudz's congregation of fifty people.

That evening, we had Mass with Fr. Jaroslaw Olszewski, SAC. I gave a teaching and prayed over about 200 people. They are working at building a men's group in the parish, but it is a slow process.

The following day, Andrzej Lewek (from Poland) drove me seven hours to Drohobych to meet with Fr. Ihor Kozankevych. He took us to a house for recovering alcoholics and drug abusers. We had Mass with forty men and a team of ten men and women workers. After my teaching, the men came forward with very sincere requests for prayer. They are now building a second house, hoping to double the patients.

The next day, we attended Mass at the Ukranian Catholic Caritas Center. After Mass, I gave a teaching to some adult and young people with disabilities and their caregivers. There was a psychologist present, and I wasn't sure how she would react to my very faith-based presentation. At the end, I prayed over everyone, and when I prayed over her, she began to weep tears of relief for her own personal struggle.

The priest and two laymen have a room in the center where they minister and pray every day, but they haven't seen many positive results. So I prayed with them for the release of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, especially healing. It ended up being a good conversation for Andrzej and me also.

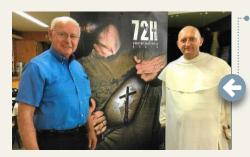
Finally, we were blessed to celebrate the feast of the Exultation at Fr. Dennis Shastakovich's small parish called Exultation of the Cross. We celebrated with Mass and adoration. I gave a teaching and prayed with 120 people. There are only one hundred parishioners in that church, but all left very blessed. We then drove to the city of Gorodno for a weekend parish retreat. Approximately seventy people attended. My presentation included a very challenging question-and-answer period. I prayed over everyone on Saturday night, and I expect to return next year to hear some excellent witnesses. 4

Work with MOSJI Bears Fruit

Don Turbitt's mission outreach extends beyond his work with Renewal Ministries, as does the work of many of our country coordinators. He also serves extensively in Poland and in promoting The Men of St. Joseph International (MOSJI.) We want to share with you some of the amazing fruit Don's ministry is bearing:



I recently was invited to lead a retreat for a group of Men of St. Joseph International in St. Stanislaus Parish in New York City. God has blessed me by giving me numerous opportunities to initiate men's groups in various places, mainly because of my connections with Poland. This was yet another group of men all born in Poland, but now living in the US and desiring to stay connected to other Polish men and the Church.



The pastor, Fr. Ladensz Lizinczyk, OSPPE, requested that I lead a parish retreat weekend. Sebastian Gryka is the lay leader in charge of the group. It was very well organized, with approximately twenty men in attendance. I also was given an opportunity to speak to the parish's Charismatic group.

For me, the highlight of giving a retreat is praying with the attendees. Almost all of the men rested in the Spirit and experienced the power and peace of the Holy Spirit, which was the first time anyone from that group experienced that. Several witnessed to experiencing the power of God, and a young

man named Andrzej witnessed to his back being instantly healed. When he came forward for prayer, I asked him what he wanted Jesus to do for him. He said, "My lower back, it's been bad for a long time." I asked him when he wanted it to be healed. He said, "Now!" I prayed over him, and he rested in the Spirit, and then I continued praying for the remainder of the men. When prayer ministry was over, Andrzej got off the floor and said the pain was gone! Andrzej was healed!

ALMOST ALL OF THE MEN
RESTED IN THE SPIRIT
AND EXPERIENCED THE
POWER AND PEACE
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT... 99

I am so blessed to see how many men's lives have changed for the better, emotionally and spiritually, through Men of St. Joseph International (MOSJI). While I was writing this report, I received a call from Poland. Andrzej Lewek, MOSJI leader of Poland, told me he had just returned from Czestochowa's MOSJI Conference. They originally expected 2000 men to attend. Days before the conference, 1500 more men registered, and then 5000 men showed up for the conference! This was the largest men's conference ever in Poland.

GOD IS ON THE MOVE—ALL GLORY TO THE LORD FOR THIS BLESSED WORK!

On the Road.

February 2018 ENGAGEMENTS

Ann Arbor, MI i.d.9:16 Disciples' Night

Feb. 1
Tim & Maggie Glemkowski
Contact: Katie@id916.com

Novi, MI Men's Night

Feb. 1 Peter Herbeck

Contact: Jerry Peruski 248-954-9226

Grass Lake, MI Christ the King Women's Retreat

Feb. 2-4 Dr. Mary Healy Details: ctkcc.net

Lexington, KY Legatus* Feb. 8

Pete Burak

Grosse Pointe, MI Evangelization Talk Feb. 8

Dr. Mary Healy
Contact: sscanlon21@comcast.net

Burnsville, MN WINE Women's Event

Feb. 10 Sr. Ann Shields

Details: catholicvineyard.com

Tampa, FL Legatus Meeting*

Feb. 9-11 Peter Herbeck

Duluth, MN Men's Conference

Feb. 16-17 Peter Herbeck

Details: www.duluthcatholicmen.org

Baltimore, MD Mid-Atlantic Conference

Feb. 16
Dr. Mary Healy
Details: www.midatlanticcongress.org

Dublin, Ireland Divine Mercy Conference

Feb. 17-18
Ralph Martin
Contact: evaneyd@tcd.ie

Heiloo, Netherlands Study Day for Priests, Deacons, & Pastoral Workers*

Feb. 19 Ralph Martin

Joliet, IL Millennial Church Conference

Feb. 22 Pete Burak Details: www.millennialchurchconference.com

Joliet, IL Young Adult Encounter Night

Pete Burak
Details: www.facebook.com/TenthHourInitiative

Cleveland, OH Men's Conference Feb. 24

Peter Herbeck

Details: www.cmfneo.org/conference_general.asp

Omaha, NE Magnificat Brunch

Feb. 24

Dr. Mary Healy

Details: www.magnificatomaha.org

MISSIONS

Zambia

Jan. 24-Feb. 13 Lloyd & Nancy Greenhaw

Ethiopia

Feb. 19 - Mar. 6 Lloyd & Nancy Greenhaw

For more information about missions, contact Kathleen at 734-662-1730 ext. 132 or kkittle@renewalministries.net

Lincoln, NE Healing Service

Feb. 24

Dr. Mary Healy Contact: frcdoty@gmail.com

Hamilton, NJ Men's Rally Feb. 24

Feb. 24 Ralph Martin

Contact: cathmenforjesus@aol.com

Alexandria, VA Lenten Talks

Feb. 28

Ralph Martin

Contact: sdoyle@blessedsacramentcc.org

LOOKING AHEAD...

Toronto, Canada Lift Jesus Higher Rally

Mar. 3

Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, & Sr. Ann Shields Details: www.lift-jesus-higher-rally.ca

* Not open to the public. For a complete listing, visit: RenewalMinistries.net/Events

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Renewal Ministries is a Catholic ministry committed to renewal and evangelization in the Church. It seeks to proclaim Jesus Christ through its TV and radio outreaches, as well as through books, conferences, retreats, and other international evangelistic events.

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